

C.439(1) UXBRIDGE

(later Mun. B.)



THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF UXBRIDGE

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER
OF
HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1948



STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

Medical Officer of Health :

W. TOWNSEND DOBSON, M.R.C.S. (Eng.), L.R.C.P. (Lond.).

(Part-time : died 12th January, 1949).

Chief Sanitary Inspector :

V. E. BAUGHAN, F.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

(Certificate of Royal Sanitary Institute, Sanitary Science Certificate, Meat and Food Inspector's Certificate and Smoke Inspector's Certificate).

Deputy Chief Sanitary Inspector :

A. S. HIBBERT, M.S.I.A.

(Certificate of Royal Sanitary Institute, Meat and Food Inspector's Certificate).

Sanitary Inspectors :

S. A. CASH, M.R.San.I.

(Certificate of Royal Sanitary Institute, Meat and Food Inspector's Certificate).

G. PUTTICK, M.S.I.A.

(Certificate of Royal Sanitary Institute, Meat and Food Inspector's Certificate).

Chief Clerk :

A. J. BENSON


(Certificate of Royal Institute of Public Health and Hygiene).

Clerks :

MISS D. M. AGER.

MISS J. HUTCHINSON.

MISS D. G. HAWKER.



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Annual Report

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

1948

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
259, HIGH STREET,
UXBRIDGE.

July, 1949.

**TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE UXBRIDGE
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.**

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

The year 1948, the subject of this Annual Report, was barely concluded when the death occurred on 12th January last of Dr. W. Townsend Dobson, the Council's Medical Officer of Health. Dr. Dobson had held the part-time appointment of Medical Officer of Health since the year 1918, firstly to the Uxbridge Rural District Council and, following the amalgamation in 1929, to the Uxbridge Urban District Council.

A comparison between the statistics in his first report to the Urban Authority and those for the year 1948 is of interest. Whereas in 1929 the population of the District was 26,275, that for 1948 is 52,460, while the number of inhabited dwellings has increased from 6,431 to 13,704. During this period the Birth Rate has decreased from 19·9 to 18·5 per 1,000 of the population and the Death Rate from 11·9 to 8·7 per 1,000 for the year now under review. With regard to diphtheria, during the last two years no notifications of this disease have been received, while 48 cases were notified in 1929, when the population was one-half that for 1948.

It remains for me to make a factual presentation of the medical statistics for 1948, and to submit my report on the sanitary administration of the area.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

V. E. BAUGHAN,

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

AREA.

Total area of District 10,237 acres.

POPULATION.

The Registrar-General's Estimate of Population for the mid-year 1948 is 52,460.

TOTAL BIRTHS.

<i>Sex</i>	<i>Live Legitimate</i>	<i>Live Illegitimate</i>	<i>Stillborn Legitimate</i>	<i>Stillborn Illegitimate</i>	<i>Total</i>
Males ...	476	22	10	—	508
Females...	433	27	5	—	465
	—	—	—	—	—
Totals ...	909	49	15	—	973
	—	—	—	—	—

BIRTH RATE.

	1948		1947		Basis
	No.	Birth Rate.	No.	Birth Rate.	
LIVE BIRTHS	958	18.26	1135	22.53	Per 1,000 Registrar-General's estimated Resident Population
STILL BIRTHS	15	15.41	12	10.46	Per 1,000 total (<i>i.e.</i> live and still) births
TOTAL BIRTHS	973	18.55	1147	22.77	Per 1,000 Registrar-General's estimated Resident Population

The Total Birth Rate for England and Wales for 1947 was 21.00 and 18.32 for the year under review.

DEATHS AND DEATH RATE.

	Total Deaths (All Causes)		Death Rate (per 1,000) Registrar-General's estimated Resident Population.	
	1948	1947	1948	1947
Male ...	237	248	8.77	9.65
Female ...	223	238		
TOTAL ...	460	486		

CAUSES OF DEATH.

The following table shows causes of death as given in the Registrar-General's statistics.

<i>Cause of Death.</i>	<i>No. of Deaths.</i>	
	1948	1947
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	—	—
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	—	—
Scarlet Fever	—	—
Whooping Cough	3	—
Diphtheria	—	—
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System... ..	20	15
Other Forms of Tuberculosis	4	2
Syphilitic Diseases	6	3
Influenza	4	3
Measles	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis and Polioencephalitis	2	—
Acute Infective Encephalitis	—	1
Cancer of Buccal Cavity & Œsophagus (M) :		
Uterus (F)	9	10
Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum	17	14
Cancer of Breast	12	14
Cancer of All Other Sites	51	53
Diabetes	2	3
Intra-cranial Vascular Lesions	30	43
Heart Disease	97	122
Other Diseases of Circulatory System	16	36
Bronchitis	28	21
Pneumonia	27	45
Other Respiratory Diseases	6	3
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	8	6
Diarrhœa under 2 Years	3	3
Appendicitis	2	2
Other Digestive Diseases	11	9
Nephritis	7	18
Puerperal and Post-Abortion Sepsis... ..	1	—
Other Maternal Causes	1	—
Premature Birth	8	5
Congenital Malformation, Birth Injuries, Infantile Diseases	27	13
Suicide	2	5
Road Traffic Accidents	6	5
Other Violent Causes	16	11
All Other Causes	34	31

DEATH RATE OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE.

			<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
In Total Live Births	...	...	25	26	51

The number of deaths of infants under one year has increased from 32 during 1947 to 51 during 1948, the rate per 1,000 live births has increased from 28·19 to 53·24.

DEATHS.

There has been a decrease in the number of deaths and the death rate of 8·77 for 1948 is the lowest since 1932 when the figure was 8·41. The death rate for England and Wales for the year 1948 was 10·8 per 1,000 of the Registrar-General's estimated population.

One death from polioencephalitis occurred during the year ; the patient was a female member of the Polish Olympic Games Team who was admitted to the Uxbridge Isolation Hospital, and whose death has been listed as occurring in the Uxbridge Urban District. In the case of the death of a girl aged seven, resident in the District, a post-mortem diagnosis of anterior poliomyelitis was made.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The following table shows the incidence of infectious diseases. Figures for the year 1948 vary but little from those of the previous year. There were no cases of diphtheria, and there was a reduction from 97 to 78 in the number of cases of scarlet fever notified.

Measles, and to a lesser degree whooping cough, were the only diseases to show epidemic prevalence during the year, and in both instances increases were recorded over the figures for 1947.

The number of new cases of pulmonary tuberculosis notified during 1948 was 77, compared with 70 during the preceding year ; first cases of non-pulmonary tuberculosis show a reduction from 15 to 8.

CLASSIFIED LIST OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED.

Disease	Ages of Cases Notified											Total 1948	Total 1947	Total Cases Admitted to Hospital		Deaths	
	Under One Year	1 to 2	2 to 3	3 to 4	4 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 65	65 and up- wards		1948	1947	1948	1947
Scarlet Fever ...	1	3	5	7	8	40	7	—	3	2	2	—	97	74	90	—	—
Diphtheria ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Typhoid Fever ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Paratyphoid "B" Fever	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Dysentery ...	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	1	—	2	3	2	—	—
Erysipelas ...	—	—	1	1	—	1	1	2	7	6	16	—	25	5	2	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	24	5	—	—	27	30	27	—	—
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	3	2	2	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	2	—	—
Pneumonia ...	1	2	—	1	1	6	1	1	9	11	10	7	47	27	22	27	45
Smallpox ...	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis (Pulmonary)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
" (Non-Pulmonary)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Anterior Poliomyelitis ...	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	4	3	4	—	—
Polioencephalitis ...	—	—	—	—	—	4	1	—	—	—	—	—	2	4	2	2	—
Encephalitis Lethargica	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—
Measles ...	24	82	114	93	91	369	9	3	5	1	1	—	516	17	23	—	—
Whooping Cough ...	19	39	31	48	37	95	1	1	1	—	—	—	94	5	6	3	—

TUBERCULOSIS.

AGE PERIODS	NEW CASES					
	Pulmonary			Non-Pulmonary		
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
0—1	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—5	2	4	6	—	1	1
5—15	5	2	7	1	1	2
15—25	9	14	23	1	—	1
25—35	6	9	15	1	—	1
35—45	8	5	13	—	1	1
45—55	2	4	6	—	1	1
55—65	3	—	3	1	—	1
65 and up	3	1	4	—	—	—
TOTALS	38	39	77	4	4	8

AGE PERIODS	DEATHS					
	Pulmonary			Non-Pulmonary		
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
0—1	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—5	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—15	—	—	—	—	1	1
15—25	2	—	2	2	1	3
25—35	1	2	3	—	—	—
35—45	5	1	6	—	—	—
45—55	—	2	2	—	—	—
55—65	3	1	4	—	—	—
65 and up	3	—	3	—	—	—
TOTALS	14	6	20	2	2	4

Of the total of 77 new cases of pulmonary tuberculosis added to the register during the year, 15 were transferred from other districts, while of the 8 cases of non-pulmonary tuberculosis, 1 was transferred from another district.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

With the coming into force of the National Health Service Act, 1946, the responsibility for all diphtheria immunisation passed to the Middlesex County Council with effect from 5th July, 1948.

The arrangements under which immunisation was carried out at County Council Welfare Centres are continued. In addition, all private medical practitioners have been invited to undertake the free immunisation of children of all ages. The prophylactic required by medical practitioners is provided free of charge, and supplies are held at the Public Health Department for distribution on behalf of the County Council.

The number of immunisations completed up to 4th July was 314, divided into two age groups, as follows :—

Under 5 years.

295

5 years but under 15.

19

In addition 210 children received a " boost " injection.

The following table showing the incidence of diphtheria and the number of deaths from the disease, giving the figures for the country as a whole as well as those for Uxbridge, is again reproduced. This shows a further decline in cases of diphtheria and in deaths from the disease.

Year	Deaths		Cases	
	England and Wales	Uxbridge	England and Wales	Uxbridge
1931-40 (average)	2,800	2	55,300	34
1940	2,480	2	46,281	43
1941	2,641	3	50,797	44
1942	1,827	5	41,404	43
1943	1,371	—	34,662	—
1944	934	—	29,949	9
1945	722	—	25,246	1
1946	472	—	18,283	2
1947	245	—	10,469	—
1948	150	—	8,034	—

SCABIES.

As stated in the Medical Officer's Report for 1946, following the discontinuance of the facilities provided at Civil Defence First Aid Posts for the treatment of scabies, a clinic was opened at the Uxbridge Isolation Hospital. The numbers of persons treated at this clinic each year were as follows :—

1946	...	...	40
1947	...	...	42
1948	...	...	2

The clinic has now been discontinued and treatment reverted to private practitioners, with the facilities at the Council's Disinfectant Station available if required.

MASS RADIOGRAPHY.

In May, 1948, the Middlesex County Council Mass X-Ray Unit paid a second visit to Uxbridge, the first visit being made in September, 1946. On the second occasion Messrs. Norman Reeves (Motors) Ltd. kindly placed their High Street Showroom at the disposal of the Unit, and this central venue proved most satisfactory.

For purposes of comparison the attendance figures for 1946 and 1948 are given below :—

	<i>Factory Personnel</i>	<i>School Leavers</i>	<i>General Public</i>	<i>Total</i>
1946 Bell Punch Works ...	1,981	—	359	2,340
1948 Norman Reeves Showroom	2,449	430	1,037	3,916

189 cases were recalled for full-sized X-Ray photographs and medical examination by the Medical Officer in charge of the Unit. The following table shows the ultimate diagnosis and disposal of these cases :—

No further action :

Clear	69	
Some abnormality ...	67	
	—	136

Tuberculosis :

For further observation ...	23	
For treatment	8	
	—	31

Other than tuberculosis :

? Cancer	2	
For observation	3	
Conditions already known to patient	14	
	—	19

Failed to attend Clinic :

3

Of the total number of persons examined .79 per cent. were found to be suffering from tuberculosis, compared with .98 per cent. in 1946.

REPORT OF CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR.

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS AND ADMINISTRATIVE DUTIES.

The following summary shows the inspections and other duties carried out by the Inspectorate during the year 1948 when a total of 5,289 visits were made.

Houses inspected under Housing Act	179
Premises visited under Public Health Acts	461
Re-visits to houses and other premises	1,019
Visits to works in progress	343
Unclassified visits	402
Visits to factories	128
,, outworkers' premises	12
,, bakehouses	19
,, restaurants and tearooms	55
,, butchers' shops and slaughterhouses	111
,, fish shops	23
,, grocers' shops and wholesale depots	85
,, food hawkers' premises	16
,, dairies and milk shops	23
,, cowsheds	37
,, piggeries	120
,, manufacturers and purveyors of ice cream	25
,, gypsy encampments and caravans	223
,, common lodging houses	3
,, school premises	6
,, petroleum installations	62
Visits re Shops Acts	34
,, unsound food	259
,, nuisances from animals	40
,, water supply	71
,, drainage and cesspools	222
,, ponds and ditches	60
,, rats and mice	80
,, insect pests	115
,, infectious diseases	111
,, scabies	1
,, alleged overcrowding	45
,, Council houses	79
,, permitted numbers	39
,, smoke nuisances	33
Smoke observations	24
Council houses inspected	80
,, applications verified	139
Water samples taken	54
Milk samples taken	75
Interviews	376
<hr/>	
Informal Notices served	344
Statutory Notices served	53

HOUSING.

1.—INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING THE YEAR.

(1)	(a)	Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	367
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	789
(2)	(a)	Number of dwelling houses (included in sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Consolidated) Regulations, 1925 and 1932	Nil
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	Nil
(3)		Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	2
(4)		Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	246

2.—REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES.

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	283
--	-----

3.—ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS.

(a) *Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.*

(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	19
(2)	Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :	
	(a) By owners	12
	(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	4

(b) *Proceedings under Public Health Acts.*

(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	7
(2)	Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal Notices :	
	(a) By owners	3
	(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	7

(c) *Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936.*

(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	Nil
(2)	Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	Nil

(d) *Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.*

(1)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	...	...	...	...	...	2
(2)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	...	...	...	...	...	Nil

With reference to Item 1 (3) above, undertakings were given in accordance with Sect. 11 of the Housing Act, 1936, and accepted by the Council, that the premises would not be used for human habitation until they were either demolished or works of repair carried out which would render the properties fit to be used as living accommodation.

NUISANCES.

Six hundred and ninety-one complaints were received relating to the following matters :—

Defective drains and sanitary fittings	...	87
Defective water storage tanks and fittings	...	30
Insanitary condition of house	... ..	28
General defects	... ..	38
Defective chimneys and fireplaces	... ..	16
„ walls and ceilings	... ..	33
„ floors	... ..	15
„ roofs and guttering	... ..	23
„ doors and windows	... ..	8
„ sinks and wash-hand basins	...	11
„ dustbins	... ..	33
Nuisance from dampness	... ..	31
Verminous premises	... ..	22
Accumulation of refuse or manure	... ..	32
Nuisance from keeping animals	... ..	20
„ „ gypsies	... ..	34
„ „ rats or mice	... ..	130
„ „ ponds or ditches	... ..	6
Miscellaneous nuisances	... ..	94

PROVISION OF DUSTBINS.

The scheme for the re-sale of dustbins to the public has continued in operation, and during the year 1948 107 dustbins have been sold to the owners of dwelling houses and business premises. The total number sold since the scheme was started in 1942 is 1,609.

FACTORIES.

The following tables show the number of inspections made, defects found, and the result of action taken.

1. INSPECTION OF FACTORIES.

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspec- tions (3)	Written notices (4)	Occupier prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authority	25	16	4	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which section 7 is enforced by Local Authority	122	108	9	—
(iii) Other premises in which section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers premises)	4	4	—	—
TOTAL	151	128	13	—

2. DEFECTS FOUND IN FACTORIES.

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Reme- died (3)	Referred		
			To H.M. Insp. (4)	By H.M. Insp. (5)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)...	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable Tempera- ture (S.3) 	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) 	1	1	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) 	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7) 					
(a) Insufficient ...	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defect- tive 	15	13	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	1	1	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including of- fences relating to home work) 	—	—	12	—	—
TOTAL 	17	15	12	—	—

3. HOME-WORK.

During the year 12 visits of inspection were made to the homes of outworkers residing in the District ; all the premises were found to be in a satisfactory condition.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

Following complaints concerning the emission of excessive smoke from the chimneys of two laundries and a public institution, twenty-four smoke observations were made during the year. In each case the observation was followed by letter in conformity with the requirements of Section 102 of the Public Health Act, 1936, as well as a visit to the plant concerned.

Usually the trouble was attributed to the varying qualities of fuel received, but when the different plants were fired under observation, improvements resulted. In one instance the Ministry of Fuel and Power were asked to arrange for the visit of a boiler efficiency expert. This official personally stoked a boiler for some two hours, demonstrating the method of firing required to maintain steam pressure without excessive smoke. Subsequent observations showed a reduction in smoke emission from this chimney.

WATER SUPPLY.

The Council's water undertaking was transferred to the Rickmansworth and Uxbridge Valley Water Company on 1st April, 1949, but during the period covered by this report the District had a piped supply from two undertakings, namely, that of the Rickmansworth and Uxbridge Valley Water Company and the Council's own undertaking. The total supply from the two undertakings has always been adequate for the requirements of the District.

During the year 13 samples were taken from the bores and 13 from the mains of the Council's undertaking and 11 from the mains of the Rickmansworth and Uxbridge Valley Water Company. All samples were found to be of high bacterial purity and safe for drinking purposes. In addition, one sample was taken from the bores of the Council's undertaking and submitted for chemical analysis ; the report states that this was clear and free from any organic debris.

Following service of statutory notices seven properties were provided with a piped mains supply. These properties were formerly provided with water from shallow wells, the waters from which had been shown upon bacteriological examination to be unsuitable for domestic use.

The number of dwelling houses and the population supplied from public mains are estimated to be as follows :—

		<i>Number of dwelling houses</i>	<i>Population</i>
Direct to the house	...	13,578	51,995
By means of stand-pipes	...	121	455

SWIMMING POOL.

The Council's swimming pool was open to the public during the season May to September.

Sixteen samples of pool water were taken for bacteriological examination, the frequency of sampling being determined by the climatic conditions prevailing and the number of bathers using the pool. All the samples showed the water to be in a state of bacterial purity comparable to that of mains drinking water.

During the previous season experiments were carried out using the latest technique of super chlorination, and a chlorinator of larger capacity was installed and ready for operation when the pool was opened.

The difficulties experienced in maintaining a suitable pH were also overcome by the installation of an improved variable chemical dosing plant, and it has been found possible to maintain a sterile water in any "bathing load" condition during the season.

(a) MEAT. MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

(i) Butchers Shops.

Butchers shops in the area have been frequently inspected and found generally satisfactory. During the year 159 lbs. of fresh meat, home killed and imported, was found to be unfit for human consumption and destroyed.

(ii) Slaughterhouses.

There is one slaughterhouse in the area where pigs are killed under licence of the Ministry of Food, while an occasional emergency slaughter takes place at an approved slaughterhouse. The following table shows the number of animals slaughtered during the year. In all cases the carcase and organs were inspected.

	Cattle, excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	—	—	—	1	147
Number inspected	—	—	—	1	147
<i>All diseases except Tuberculosis</i>					
Whole carcases condemned ...				1	4
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...				—	7
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with disease other than tuberculosis ...				100%	7.48%
<i>Tuberculosis only</i>					
Whole carcases condemned ...				—	1
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...				—	7
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with tuber- culosis				—	5.44%

∴ The total weight of diseased and unsound meat included in the above table is shown below :—

Class of Animal	Tuberculosis			Other Diseases			Total lbs.
	No. of animals		lbs.	No. of animals		lbs.	
	Whole carcase	Part carcase and offals		Whole carcase	Part carcase and offals		
Sheep	—	—	—	1	—	76	76
Pigs	1	7	247	4	6	362	609
TOTALS	1	7	247	5	6	438	685

(b) OTHER FOODS.

Wholesale depots, food shops, stalls, cafes and other premises where food is prepared, stored or sold, have been frequently visited and the foodstuffs examined ; the condition of the various premises has been found generally satisfactory.

At certain premises, principally cafes, the standard of cleanliness was not satisfactory, due either to the absence of adequate facilities or the bad arrangement of the premises. Informal action was taken to secure the cleansing of floors, walls, ceilings, etc., of dining rooms, kitchens and food stores, also the provision of additional washing-up sinks and improved facilities for staff, including that for the washing of hands.

The total amount of food surrendered for destruction during the year was 5 tons 1 cwt. 18 lbs., as shown in the following table. This food was disposed of in accordance with the salvage instructions of the Ministry of Food.

<i>Class of Food</i>	<i>No. of lbs.</i>	<i>Class of Food</i>	<i>No. of lbs.</i>
Meat—tinned ...	1,062½	Fruit—tinned ...	836
Brawn—tinned ...	156	Fruit—dried ...	192
Sausages ...	73	Fruit—fresh ...	7
Rabbits—imported ...	60	Vegetables—tinned ...	979½
Bacon ...	59	Beans—Butter ...	106
Soup—tinned ...	111½	Potatoes ...	448
Poultry ...	170	Flour ...	431
Fish—tinned ...	257	Biscuits ...	60
Fish—wet ...	4,937½	Cereals and Cake ...	55
Butter ...	5	Confectionery ...	35
Cooking Fat ...	220	Jam and Marmalade ...	453½
Cheese ...	68	Jellies ...	127½
Milk—tinned ...	321½	Pickles and Sauces ...	54
Eggs—dried ...	17	Coffee Essence ...	27½
Eggs—shell ...	...	...	304

The greater part of the foregoing foodstuffs were inspected after distribution for retail sale necessitating detailed examinations at various food premises throughout the District.

There is continued close co-operation between the Public Health Department and the Local and Divisional Offices of the Ministry of Food.

MILK SUPPLY.

(a) Premises and Purveyors.

The following table shows the number of registered premises and purveyors within the District :—

Producers (wholesale)	...	...	...	...	18
Producers (retail)	...	...	...	...	3
Retail purveyors	...	...	...	...	8
Retail purveyors from other Districts	...	...	...	...	3

Of the 21 producers three are licensed by the Middlesex County Council to produce Tuberculin Tested milk and four licensed to produce Accredited milk.

Sixteen principal and four supplementary licences were granted under the Milk (Special Designations) Orders for the sale of graded milks.

(b) Bacteriological Examination.

The following table shows the number of samples of milk taken for bacteriological and other special examination, and the results of such examination :—

Class of Milk				Number of samples	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Tuberculin Tested	...	...	...	15	12	3
Accredited	...	...	...	20	16	4
Pasteurised (Milk in Schools Scheme)	...	...	...	40	38	2
Total				75	66	9

From the foregoing it will be observed that of a total of 75 samples, 9 or 12 per cent. were found to be unsatisfactory, compared with 24 per cent. in the previous year.

Of the 7 failures in graded milks 2 did not comply with the coliform test and 2 failed to pass the methylene blue test, while 3 samples failed both tests.

Copies of all reports received on samples of graded milk examined are sent to the Milk Executive Officer of the County Agricultural Executive Committee and to the producers. Active co-operation exists between the officers of the County Agricultural Executive Committee and this Department.

In respect of milk supplied under the Milk in Schools Scheme, supplies are obtained from three different retailers, and 40 samples were taken at various schools in the area. With two exceptions all

samples taken passed the methylene blue and phosphatase tests ; this is again considered satisfactory. With regard to the samples which failed the tests the matter was taken up with the retailers, who were provided with a copy of the reports. Copies of all reports on samples of school milk are sent to the County Medical Officer of Health.

As in previous years all samples of milk taken were submitted to the Gerber tests in the laboratory of the Public Health Department ; all samples were found to comply with the requirements of the Sale of Milk Regulations, 1939.

ICE CREAM.

At the end of 1948 there were 32 premises registered for the storage or sale of ice cream under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938. In the case of each new application, before recommending that the premises be registered, an inspection was made to ensure that the requirements of Section 13 (relating to provisions as to rooms where food is prepared or stored and the precautions taken to guard against contamination of food) were complied with, and that the requirements of the Ice Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations, 1947, were fully observed.

Periodic inspections were made of all premises where ice cream is stored or sold and, where conditions were observed which were likely to affect the purity of the ice cream sold, samples were taken and submitted for examination by the recommended methylene blue reduction test. Five such samples were taken and all were found to be of first grade purity.

DISINFECTION.

Eighty-five disinfections were carried out following the occurrence of infectious disease.

DISINFESTATION.

During the year nineteen disinfestations were carried out at bug-infested Council houses and private dwellings.

As in 1947, all new Council houses were sprayed with Gam-mexane insecticide prior to occupation. 255 new houses were so treated, and in 58 instances when existing Council houses became vacant, these were similarly treated before being re-let.

MOSQUITO CONTROL.

Throughout the area many water courses, lakes, ditches, ponds, etc., were treated with a larvaecide.

This work is done each year, and while it is difficult to assess the exact degree of benefit from the treatment, there is no doubt that these measures reduce the mosquito menace.

RODENT CONTROL.

As in previous years the Rodent Control Section of the Public Health Department continued to operate, and works of disinfection were carried out at factories, wholesale depots, business premises and private dwelling houses. Works were also carried out at the Council's refuse tip, depots and premises.

In continuance of the treatment of sewers first carried out in 1944 and repeated in 1946 and 1947, two further maintenance treatments of the sewers in the town area of Uxbridge and the outer areas of the District were carried out in May and November 1948. Systematic baiting and poisoning campaigns took place and all areas of infestation detected were dealt with. Results of the treatments were as follows :—

<i>Treatment</i>				<i>Manholes</i>		<i>Estimated killed</i>
				<i>Baited</i>	<i>Bait taken</i>	
May	...	...	...	280	88	756
November	...	...	...	201	43	309

PATHOLOGICAL WORK.

All samples (milk, water, food, sputa, swabs, etc.) were submitted to Hampstead Laboratory, Cottage Hospital, Uxbridge.